

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 24, 26, and 28-31 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 24, 26, and 28-31 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 24 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 24, 26, and 28-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koppolu (U.S. Patent No. 5,706,458). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 5-8, 24, and 28-31 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claims 1 and 24 include features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art, namely, as represented by claim 1 as amended:

A unified user interface for an application comprising:

one or more component tables, wherein each component table corresponds to a component of the application, each component table includes at least one command for the corresponding component, and each component table includes a description for adding the command to the user interface, **wherein each command has an associated priority**; and

a master table merged from the one or more component tables, said master table includes available command and available command vectors for the application, each command and command vector having a unique object identifier, and said master table comprising at least one information element from among the following information elements: available commands including commands that are not menu commands; available command vectors including command vectors that do not correspond to menu commands; commands that are on toolbars; and commands that map to keystrokes.

Claims 1 and 24 have been amended to include the feature of each command having an associated priority. Support for these amendments can be found on page 13, lines 16 through 25 of the specification as originally filed.

Koppolu purports to teach systems and methods for generating a merged menu list using a conflict resolution protocol (Koppolu, Abstract). The conflict resolution protocol includes container menus of a container application and server menus of a server application (Id.). The container application has a container object and a container window environment,

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0515/37430.02
Application No.: 09/519,206
Office Action Dated: December 13, 2005

PATENT

and the server application has a containee object which is contained within the container object (Id.).

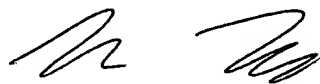
Koppolu fails to disclose or **each command having an associated priority**, as required by independent claim 1. There is no mention of commands having associated priorities anywhere in Koppolu. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection and allow claim 1.

Independent claim 24 as amended includes similar features as claim 1, and is therefore allowable for at least the reasons given for claim 1 above. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection and allow claim 24.

Claims 5-8, and 28-31 are all variously dependent on independent claims 1 and 24, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons given for claims 1 and 24 above. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections and allow claims 5-8, and 28-31.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Date: March 10, 2006



Michael W. Tieff
Registration No. 57,845

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439